

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

230817Z May 00

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ5608

PAGE 01 HARARE 02734 01 OF 05 230816Z
ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01
	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	ANHR-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-01	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01
	NSAE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/011W				

-----5A204B 230817Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6108
INFO NSC WASHDC
DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
DEPTTREAS WASHDC
USDOC WASHDC
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 05 HARARE 002734

SIPDIS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HARARE 02734 01 OF 05 230816Z
DEPT FOR DRL/ROBERT WARD
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
DOL FOR ILAB/ROBERT SHEPARD
TREASURY FOR OASIA/RALYEA AND NATAN EPSTEIN
USDOC FOR DHENKE-ROGERS
LONDON FOR PFLAUMER
PARIS FOR WILLIAMS

DEPT PASS USAID WASHDC FOR AFR/SA - NAN NEWMAN, OTI -
MARC SCOTT, AND A/AID - RICHARD MCCALL

DEPT PASS USTR FOR ROSA WHITAKER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/23/2000
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ELAB](#) [PINR](#) [ZI](#) [MDC](#)
SUBJECT: MDC STILL LIKELY TO WIN AT LEAST 20 PERCENT OF
TOTAL PARLIAMENTARY SEATS

REF: (A) HARARE 00395, (B) HARARE 02560, (C) HARARE

01797

CLASSIFIED BY LABOFF SHAWN THORNE FOR REASONS 1.5 (B)
AND (D).

1. (C) SUMMARY: DESPITE A STATE-SPONSORED CAMPAIGN OF
INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENCE, AND THE RULING PARTY'S
CONTROL OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, THE MOVEMENT FOR
DEMOCRATIC CHANGE (MDC) STILL IS LIKELY TO WIN AT LEAST
20 PERCENT OF THE 150 PARLIAMENTARY SEAT TOTAL (OR 30
SEATS) IN THE ELECTIONS NOW SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 24-25.
(NOTE: ONLY 120 OF THE 150 SEATS ARE ELECTED. THE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HARARE 02734 01 OF 05 230816Z
REMAINING 30 ARE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT. END NOTE.)
APPROXIMATELY 42 OF THE 120 SEATS UP FOR GRABS REPRESENT
URBAN AND/OR PERI-URBAN AREAS, WHILE 78 ARE LOCATED IN
RURAL AREAS. SUPPORT FOR THE MDC REMAINS STRONG IN MOST
URBAN CENTERS; HENCE OUR PREDICTION THAT THE OPPOSITION
MOVEMENT WILL MANAGE TO CAPTURE AT LEAST 30 SEATS (REF
A). HOWEVER, MDC LEADERS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR SURPRISE
AT THE LEVEL OF SUSTAINED STATE SPONSORED VIOLENCE AND
INTIMIDATION TAKING PLACE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE -- AND
INCREASINGLY IN THE CITIES -- AND THE REFUSAL OF THE
POLICE TO INTERVENE. MEANWHILE, THE RULING PARTY ZANU-PF
IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ITS CONTROL OF THE ELECTORAL
PROCESS BY DELAYING THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF
CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES. THE MDC ARGUES THAT IT CANNOT
FORMALLY NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR EACH CONSTITUENCY UNTIL
IT KNOWS WHAT THOSE CONSTITUENCIES ARE, AND THAT THE GOZ
IS PURPOSELY DELAYING THE RELEASE OF THIS INFORMATION.
NONETHELESS, MDC LEADERS STATE THE PARTY ENJOYS
WIDESPREAD AND SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT IN BOTH URBAN AND
RURAL AREAS, AND THAT THE RULING PARTY'S INTIMIDATION

TACTICS WILL BACKFIRE COME ELECTION DAY. WHILE POST EXPECTS THE MDC TO CERTAINLY GET A FOOT IN THE DOOR OF PARLIAMENT, AT THIS TIME WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE PARTY TO SECURE A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY OF 76 SEATS. END SUMMARY.

ZANU-PF'S CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE CONTINUES

12. (C) THE RULING PARTY'S CAMPAIGN OF INTIMIDATION AND
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HARARE 02734 01 OF 05 230816Z
VIOLENCE CONTINUES ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AND WE EXPECT IT TO WORSEN IN THE RUN-UP TO THE JUNE 24-25 ELECTION DATE (REF B). ACCORDING TO A RUNNING DATABASE BEING COMPILED BY A MIXTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS, CHURCHES, OPPOSITION PARTIES, AND THE COMMERCIAL FARMERS UNION, OVER 5,000 ASSAULTS AND INJURIES, AND AT LEAST 21 MURDERS, HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE FARM INVASIONS IN FEBRUARY. ALMOST ALL OF THE VIOLENT ACTS, ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESSES, WERE CARRIED OUT BY ZANU-PF SUPPORTERS. FOR THE MOST PART, THE POLICE, UNDER ORDERS FROM THE POWERS-THAT-BE, HAVE STOOD IDLY BY -- AND IN SOME CASES EVEN ASSISTED THE ATTACKERS -- AS THESE CRIMES HAVE BEEN COMMITTED. THE BULK OF THE RULING PARTY'S CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN FOCUSED IN THE RURAL AREAS WHERE TWO-THIRDS OF THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION RESIDE. ON INVADDED COMMERCIAL FARMS (WHICH NOW TOTAL OVER 1,000), WAR VETERANS AND GROUPS OF ZANU-PF SUPPORTERS (MAINLY UNEMPLOYED YOUTH) CONTINUE TO TERRORIZE FARMERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES, FORCING THEM TO ATTEND "RE-EDUCATION" RALLIES AND SEVERELY BEATING (IN SOME CASES MURDERING) SUSPECTED MDC SUPPORTERS.

13. (C) IN RECENT WEEKS, THE WAVE OF VIOLENCE HAS SWEEPED INTO THE CITIES, IN PARTICULAR PERI-URBAN AREAS AND HIGH

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ5611

PAGE 01 HARARE 02734 02 OF 05 230817Z
ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01
	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	ANHR-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-01	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01
	NSAE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/011W				

-----5A205B 230817Z /38

R 230817Z MAY 00
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6109
INFO NSC WASHDC
DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
DEPTTREAS WASHDC
USDOC WASHDC
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 05 HARARE 002734

SIPDIS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HARARE 02734 02 OF 05 230817Z
DEPT FOR DRL/ROBERT WARD
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
DOL FOR ILAB/ROBERT SHEPARD
TREASURY FOR OASIA/RALYEA AND NATAN EPSTEIN
USDOC FOR DHENKE-ROGERS
LONDON FOR PFLAUMER
PARIS FOR WILLIAMS

DEPT PASS USAID WASHDC FOR AFR/SA - NAN NEWMAN, OTI -
MARC SCOTT, AND A/AID - RICHARD MCCALL

DEPT PASS USTR FOR ROSA WHITAKER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/23/2000

TAGS: PGOV ELAB PINR ZI MDC

SUBJECT: MDC STILL LIKELY TO WIN AT LEAST 20 PERCENT OF
TOTAL PARLIAMENTARY SEATS

DENSITY TOWNSHIPS. ZANU-PF SUPPORTERS HAVE BURNED THE HOMES AND DESTROYED PROPERTY OF NUMEROUS MDC OFFICIALS IN HARARE, GWERU, AND KWEKWE, AND VIOLENT SKIRMISHES BETWEEN MDC AND ZANU-PF MEMBERS OCCUR REGULARLY AROUND THE COUNTRY. WAR VETERANS AND OTHER ZANU-PF SUPPORTERS, EMBOLDENED BY THE TACIT SUPPORT OF POLICE, HAVE BEGUN TO TARGET FACTORIES AND OTHER BUSINESSES, MOST OF WHICH ARE OWNED BY WHITES OR MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN COMMUNITY WITH SUSPECTED MDC LOYALTIES. DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 15, FOR EXAMPLE, TWO FACTORIES IN BULAWAYO AND ONE LUMBER MILL IN CHIPINGE WERE STORMED BY GROUPS OF ZANU-PF THUGS DEMANDING MONEY FOR THEIR CAMPAIGN, AS WELL AS MANAGEMENT'S OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE RULING PARTY.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HARARE 02734 02 OF 05 230817Z
ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESSES, SEVERAL EMPLOYEES WERE BEATEN AND THE MANAGEMENT STAFF "ROUGHED UP" AS POLICE STOOD BY IN PLAIN VIEW AND DID NOTHING. ONE INDIAN BUSINESSMAN TOLD LABOFF THAT THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION GROUP, A GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED NGO OSTENSIBLY WORKING TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLACK ZIMBABWEANS, HAS LAUNCHED A PUBLIC CAMPAIGN IN BULAWAYO, HARARE, AND MUTARE THAT TARGETS INDIAN BUSINESSPEOPLE AS "AGENTS OF THE MDC." THE CONTACT STATED THAT HE AND OTHER COLLEAGUES ALSO HAVE RECEIVED ANONYMOUS THREATS THAT, SHOULD THE MDC WIN IN THEIR CONSTITUENCIES, THEIR FAMILIES AND PROPERTY WOULD SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.

RULING PARTY STACKS THE DECK IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

14. (C) IN ADDITION TO ITS CAMPAIGN OF INTIMIDATION, THE RULING PARTY ALSO IS USING ITS CONTROL OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS TO STACK THE DECK IN ITS FAVOR. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE WILSON SANDURA HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT, AS OF MAY 19, THE DELIMITATION COMMISSION WHICH HE CHAIRS HAD NOT RELEASED ITS OFFICIAL WRITTEN REPORT. HOWEVER, JUSTICE SANDURA TOLD REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE (NDI) PRE-ELECTION SURVEY TEAM DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 15 THAT WHILE HE HAS DISCUSSED THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NEW CONSTITUENCIES VERBALLY WITH PRESIDENT MUGABE, HE HAS NOT PROVIDED HIM WITH ANY WRITTEN REPORT. SANDURA SAID THE PROPOSED MAPS SHOWING THE NEW BOUNDARIES WERE NOT EVEN PREPARED YET, AS THEY ARE STILL BEING WORKED ON BY THE SURVEYOR GENERAL'S

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HARARE 02734 02 OF 05 230817Z
OFFICE, AND ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE READY UNTIL MAY 26. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE NEW BOUNDARIES ARE KNOWN TO THE RULING PARTY, AS MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS EMMERSON MNANGAGWA STATED ON NATIONAL TELEVISION NEWS ON MAY 16 THAT THE DELIMITATION COMMISSION HAD COMPLETED ITS WORK, AND THAT SEVERAL CONSTITUENCIES HAD BEEN ELIMINATED IN THE PROCESS OF REDRAWING THE VOTING BOUNDARIES. (NOTE: ONE OF THE CONSTITUENCIES THAT HAS BEEN ELIMINATED, ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER, IS BULAWAYO SOUTH, WHERE ATTORNEY DAVID COLTART, THE MDC'S SECRETARY FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS, WAS FAVORED TO WIN. MARGARET DONGO'S CONSTITUENCY IN HARARE SOUTH WAS ALSO DISSOLVED. END NOTE.)

15. (C) MEANWHILE, THE GOZ HAS DECLARED MAY 29 AS THE DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF CANDIDATES' NAMES TO THE NOMINATING COURT. OUR SOURCES TELL US THAT THE GOZ IS UNLIKELY TO RELEASE THE OFFICIAL RESULTS OF THE DELIMITATION EXERCISE UNTIL ABOUT MAY 22. THE MDC AND OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES ARGUE THAT ONE WEEK IS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO EXAMINE THE NEW CONSTITUENCIES AND OFFICIALLY SUBMIT THEIR CANDIDATES' CREDENTIALS TO THE NOMINATING COURT. (NOTE: SEE REF (C) FOR A TIMELINE OF PREREQUISITES THAT, ACCORDING TO THE ELECTORAL ACT, THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ5615

PAGE 01 HARARE 02734 03 OF 05 230817Z
ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01
	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	ANHR-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-01	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01
	NSAE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/011W				

-----5A2067 230817Z /38

R 230817Z MAY 00
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6110
INFO NSC WASHDC
DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
DEPTTREAS WASHDC

USDOC WASHDC
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 05 HARARE 002734

SIPDIS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HARARE 02734 03 OF 05 230817Z
DEPT FOR DRL/ROBERT WARD
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
DOL FOR ILAB/ROBERT SHEPARD
TREASURY FOR OASIA/RALYEA AND NATAN EPSTEIN
USDOC FOR DHENKE-ROGERS
LONDON FOR PFLAUMER
PARIS FOR WILLIAMS

DEPT PASS USAID WASHDC FOR AFR/SA - NAN NEWMAN, OTI -
MARC SCOTT, AND A/AID - RICHARD MCCALL

DEPT PASS USTR FOR ROSA WHITAKER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/23/2000
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ELAB](#) [PINR](#) [ZI](#) [MDC](#)
SUBJECT: MDC STILL LIKELY TO WIN AT LEAST 20 PERCENT OF
TOTAL PARLIAMENTARY SEATS

GOZ MUST FOLLOW BEFORE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. END
NOTE.) DAVID COLTART AND TENDAI BITI, THE MDC'S
SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND AGRICULTURE, ANNOUNCED TO THE

SIPDIS
PRESS ON MAY 18 THAT THE MDC INTENDS TO SUE PRESIDENT
MUGABE FOR FAILING TO ANNOUNCE THE NEW CONSTITUENCIES IN
SUFFICIENT TIME TO ALLOW CANDIDATES TO SUBMIT THEIR
NOMINATIONS, AS WELL AS OTHER GOVERNMENT TACTICS THAT
THE MDC ARGUES IS PRECLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF FREE AND
FAIR ELECTIONS ON JUNE 24-25.

16. (C) COMMENT: WHEN THE DELIMITATION COMMISSION'S
OFFICIAL REPORT IS RELEASED, WE EXPECT TO SEE THE
BOUNDARIES REDRAWN TO SPLIT UP THOSE CONSTITUENCIES,
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HARARE 02734 03 OF 05 230817Z
PARTICULARLY IN URBAN AREAS, THAT ARE KNOWN TO BE PRO-
MDC. IN SOME CASES, LIKE BULAWAYO SOUTH, THE
CONSTITUENCY WILL BE ELIMINATED ALTOGETHER. THE RULING
PARTY LIKELY WILL WAIT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE TO RELEASE
THE REPORT, GIVING THE MDC VERY LITTLE TIME TO SUBMIT
ITS CANDIDATES' NOMINATIONS. THE RULING PARTY'S
TAMPERING WITH THE CONSTITUENT BOUNDARIES -- AND ALMOST
CERTAINLY WITH THE VOTERS' ROLL -- IS CLEARLY AN ATTEMPT
TO DISADVANTAGE THE MDC AT THE POLLS IN JUNE. END
COMMENT.

MDC STILL CONFIDENT

17. (C) MORGAN TSVANGIRAI, PRESIDENT OF THE MDC, TOLD
REPORTERS ON MAY 10 THAT HIS PARTY WAS CONSIDERING
BOYCOTTING THE ELECTIONS BECAUSE, IN THE CURRENT CLIMATE
OF INTIMIDATION, A FREE AND FAIR VOTE WOULD NOT BE
POSSIBLE. THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA SEIZED THE
OPPORTUNITY TO PORTRAY THE MDC AS TURNING TAIL AND
RUNNING WHEN THE GOING GOT TOUGH. DAVID COLTART
EXPLAINED THAT TSVANGIRAI'S STATEMENT WAS NOT ONE OF
COWARDICE, BUT RATHER AN OFFER TO MDC CANDIDATES OF A
WAY OUT OF THE VIOLENCE, IF THEY CHOSE TO TAKE IT.
ACCORDING TO COLTART AND WELSHMAN NCUBE, THE MDC'S
SECRETARY GENERAL, THE PARTY'S SENIOR LEADERSHIP IS

SIPDIS
DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELFARE OF ITS CANDIDATES AND
SUPPORTERS IN THE FIELD WHO ARE BEING, OR HAVE BEEN,
TARGETS OF VIOLENCE. BY SUGGESTING A BOYCOTT, TSVANGIRAI
WAS OFFERING HIS MEMBERS THE CHANCE TO DROP OUT OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HARARE 02734 03 OF 05 230817Z
RACE AND REDUCE THEIR EXPOSURE, WHILE STILL SAVING FACE.
THE ANSWER FROM MDC CANDIDATES WAS A RESOUNDING "NO."
ACCORDING TO COLTART, ATTENDEES OF A MAY 13 MEETING OF
THE PARTY LEADERSHIP OVERWHELMINGLY VOTED AGAINST
BOYCOTTING THE ELECTION, ARGUING THAT THE RULING PARTY'S
CAMPAIGN OF TERROR WAS HAVING THE OPPOSITE EFFECT ON

VOTERS, AND THAT THEY WERE WILLING TO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF CONTINUED CAMPAIGNING IN ORDER TO "BRING AN END TO MUGABE'S DICTATORSHIP." THE MDC'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN THEREFORE CONTINUES.

18. (C) WELSHMAN NCUBE CONFIRMED THAT THE PARTY STILL INTENDS TO FIELD CANDIDATES IN EVERY DISTRICT EXCEPT THAT OF INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARIAN MARGARET DONGO. ALTHOUGH FUNDING CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM, NCUBE STATED THAT SMALL, INDIVIDUAL, AND OFTEN ANONYMOUS DONATIONS CONTINUE TO ARRIVE REGULARLY, AND THAT ALL OF THESE "DROPS IN THE BUCKET" ARE ADDING UP. BEFORE THE START OF THE COMMERCIAL FARM INVASIONS IN FEBRUARY, WHITE FARMERS AND BUSINESSPEOPLE WERE MAKING SOME SUBSTANTIAL DONATIONS. TSVANGIRAI'S NUMEROUS TRIPS TO SOUTH AFRICA AND EUROPE IN RECENT MONTHS YIELDED SOME CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FELLOW TRADE UNIONISTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES. NCUBE ADDED THAT THE PARTY CONTINUES TO RECEIVE FREQUENT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ5619

PAGE 01 HARARE 02734 04 OF 05 230818Z
ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01
	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	ANHR-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-01	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01
	NSAE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/011W				

-----5A2078 230818Z /38

R 230817Z MAY 00
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6111
INFO NSC WASHDC
DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
DEPTTREAS WASHDC
USDOC WASHDC
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 05 HARARE 002734

SIPDIS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HARARE 02734 04 OF 05 230818Z
DEPT FOR DRL/ROBERT WARD
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
DOL FOR ILAB/ROBERT SHEPARD
TREASURY FOR OASIA/RALYEA AND NATAN EPSTEIN
USDOC FOR DHENKE-ROGERS
LONDON FOR PFLAUMER
PARIS FOR WILLIAMS

DEPT PASS USAID WASHDC FOR AFR/SA - NAN NEWMAN, OTI -
MARC SCOTT, AND A/AID - RICHARD MCCALL

DEPT PASS USTR FOR ROSA WHITAKER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/23/2000
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ELAB](#) [PINR](#) [ZI](#) [MDC](#)
SUBJECT: MDC STILL LIKELY TO WIN AT LEAST 20 PERCENT OF
TOTAL PARLIAMENTARY SEATS

DONATIONS (MANY OVER THE INTERNET) FROM INDIVIDUALS LIVING ABROAD, PARTICULARLY ZIMBABWEAN EXPATRIATES IN THE U.K. ALTHOUGH THE MONEY IS COMING IN, NCUBE ADMITTED THAT IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO MOUNT THE TYPE OF MEDIA AND GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN THAT THE MDC NEEDS. "WE NEED ABOUT U.S.\$3.5 MILLION TO RUN THE CAMPAIGN THAT WE WANT," HE SAID. "WE HAVEN'T EVEN GOT HALF OF THAT."

19. (C) BEYOND FUNDING SHORTFALLS, THE WAVE OF STATE-SPONSORED VIOLENCE ACROSS ZIMBABWE HAS FORCED THE MDC'S CAMPAIGN LARGELY UNDERGROUND AT THIS POINT. NCUBE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT THE PARTY WAS "SURPRISED" BY, AND "UNPREPARED" FOR, THE LEVEL OF INTIMIDATION THAT THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HARARE 02734 04 OF 05 230818Z
RULING PARTY HAS BEEN ABLE TO SUSTAIN. IN PARTICULAR, SAID NCUBE, MDC LEADERS DID NOT EXPECT THE POLICE TO TOTALLY ABDICATE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY AND ALLOW VICIOUS BEATINGS AND KILLINGS TO TAKE PLACE WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE.

AS A RESULT, THE MDC NOW IS HOLDING ALMOST NO RALLIES ON COMMERCIAL FARMS, EITHER BECAUSE THE AREAS HAVE BEEN INVADED BY WAR VETERANS AND THEIR FOLLOWERS, AND/OR BECAUSE THE FARMERS, FEARFUL OF RETALIATION PERPETRATED BY THE RULING PARTY TOUGHS, REFUSE TO ALLOW THE EVENTS TO TAKE PLACE ON THEIR PROPERTIES. MOREOVER, SAID NCUBE, THE MDC RECOGNIZES THAT AGENTS FROM THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION (CIO) ARE PRESENT AT MOST OF THEIR GATHERINGS, AND THAT ANY FARM WORKER THAT ATTENDS ONE OF THEIR RALLIES IS LIKELY TO BE "VISITED LATER IN THE NIGHT." IN THE CITIES AND PERI-URBAN AREAS WHERE THE MDC ENJOYS WIDESPREAD SUPPORT, SAID NCUBE, THE PARTY IS STILL ABLE TO HOLD SMALL RALLIES AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. THE MAJORITY OF THE MDC'S CAMPAIGNING NOW IS BEING DONE BY WORD OF MOUTH, THOUGH, IN SMALL GROUPS AT PEOPLE'S HOMES AND OTHER PRIVATE LOCATIONS. PARTY LEADERS HAVE ADVISED THEIR MEMBERS -- PARTICULARLY IN THE TROUBLED AREAS OF THE MASHONALAND PROVINCES -- TO PUT THEIR PERSONAL SAFETY FIRST AND AVOID WEARING MDC T-SHIRTS OR CHANTING MDC SLOGANS IN PUBLIC. THE LEADERS THEMSELVES ALSO ARE TAKING EXTRA SECURITY PRECAUTIONS, INCLUDING SENDING THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS TO STAY WITH FRIENDS OR DISTANT RELATIVES.

110. (C) DESPITE THE RULING PARTY'S ATTEMPTS TO "RE-EDUCATE" ITS WAYWARD CITIZENS, THE MDC STILL IS CONFIDENT OF WINNING A MAJORITY OF 76 SEATS IN
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HARARE 02734 04 OF 05 230818Z
PARLIAMENT. MDC MEMBERS ASSERT THAT ZANU-PF WILL DISCOVER ON ELECTION DAY THAT ITS INTIMIDATION TACTICS HAVE BACKFIRED. NCUBE PREDICTS WITH GREAT CONFIDENCE THAT, "PEOPLE WILL VOTE THEIR CONSCIENCE" AT THE POLLS.

COMMENT

111. (C) THE RULING PARTY'S SCARE TACTICS AND "RE-EDUCATION" CAMPAIGN, BOTH ON THE FARMS AND IN THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED MEDIA, UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE HAD SOME EFFECT ON VOTERS. IN THE RURAL AREAS, FARM WORKERS AND COMMUNAL RESIDENTS -- TWO-THIRDS OF THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION -- GENERALLY ARE UNSOPHISTICATED; LACK ACCESS TO ANY MEDIA EXCEPT THAT CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT; AND, ACCORDING TO SOME COMMERCIAL FARMERS, ARE EASILY INTIMIDATED BY THE RULING PARTY. HIGH PRICES, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND DECLINING DISPOSABLE INCOME HAVE TAUGHT RURAL RESIDENTS, HOWEVER, THAT ALL IS NOT WELL WITH ZANU-PF'S MANAGEMENT OF THE ECONOMY. MEANWHILE, MANY OF THEIR CHILDREN AND OTHER RELATIVES LIVE IN THE CITY AND RETURN HOME ON WEEKENDS WITH TALES OF THEIR FINANCIAL STRAITS -- A STATE OF AFFAIRS THAT THE MDC IS PROMISING TO REVERSE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ5620

PAGE 01 HARARE 02734 05 OF 05 230818Z
ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01
	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	ANHR-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-01	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01
	NSAE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/011W				

-----5A207E 230818Z /38

R 230817Z MAY 00
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6112
INFO NSC WASHDC
DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
DEPTTREAS WASHDC
USDOC WASHDC
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 05 OF 05 HARARE 002734

SIPDIS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HARARE 02734 05 OF 05 230818Z
DEPT FOR DRL/ROBERT WARD
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH

DOL FOR ILAB/ROBERT SHEPARD
TREASURY FOR OASIA/RALYEA AND NATAN EPSTEIN
USDOC FOR DHENKE-ROGERS
LONDON FOR PFLAUMER
PARIS FOR WILLIAMS

DEPT PASS USAID WASHDC FOR AFR/SA - NAN NEWMAN, OTI -
MARC SCOTT, AND A/AID - RICHARD MCCALL

DEPT PASS USTR FOR ROSA WHITAKER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/23/2000

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ELAB](#) [PINR](#) [ZI](#) [MDC](#)

SUBJECT: MDC STILL LIKELY TO WIN AT LEAST 20 PERCENT OF
TOTAL PARLIAMENTARY SEATS

IT IS THEREFORE DIFFICULT TO JUDGE HOW RURAL RESIDENTS
WILL VOTE IN JUNE, PARTICULARLY NOW THAT THE RULING
PARTY HAS EFFECTIVELY QUELLED THEIR ABILITY TO FREELY
EXPRESS THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS. IN THE URBAN CENTERS, WE
CONTINUE TO SEE A HIGH DEGREE OF SUPPORT FOR THE MDC,
PARTICULARLY AMONG WORKING CLASS ZIMBABWEANS WHO
SUPPORTED THE PARTY'S EMERGENCE FROM THE ZIMBABWEAN
CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS (ZCTU). GIVEN THE LIKELIHOOD OF
HIGH NUMBERS OF MDC VOTES IN THE APPROXIMATELY 38 URBAN
CONSTITUENCIES, AS WELL AS THE STILL LARGELY UNCLEAR
SYMPATHIES OF RURAL VOTERS, WE BELIEVE THAT AN MDC WIN
OF AT LEAST 30 OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SEATS IS PROBABLE.
GIVEN THE UNREMITTING CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE, HOWEVER, THE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HARARE 02734 05 OF 05 230818Z
MDC IS UNLIKELY TO WIN MANY MORE -- AND CERTAINLY NOT
THE 76 SEATS IT EARLIER BOASTED WERE IN THE BAG -- IN
THIS ELECTION. END COMMENT.

MCDONALD

CONFIDENTIAL

>